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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Volume 32 San Francisco, California, June, 1950 Number 6

May ST. MARY'S - MORAGA Trip

High fog, grey skies and a sharp northwest wind was not sufficient to chill the enthusiasum of approximately twenty-five Audubon members on the trip to St. Mary's College and vicinity, Sunday, May 14th.

Despite the handicap of poor light, making quick field identification difficult, there were so many birds present and singing that a goodly number were identified.

Observations of special interest:

A Black-headed grosbeak's nest about 20 feet from the ground built in the crotch of a young maple tree. The male was sitting on the nest built of twigs loosely woven and presenting a rather dishevelled appearance. One of the ladies remarked "such a beautiful bird but such a sloppy housekeeper." Perhaps if it had been possible to examine the interior of the nest, which is usually carefully lined with grasses and rootlets, the impression would have been somewhat better.

At a distance of a few hundred yards from the grosbeak' nest a western warbling vireo's nest was found. It was neatly swung between twigs on a willow about 15 feet above the ground. This gem of bird architecture, a pouched shaped hammock beautifully woven of what appeared to be horse hair and grasses and about three inches deep, made the aforementioned nest odious by comparison. The male bird perched on a limb near by and sang continuously. No doubt the female was sitting on the eggs out of sight in her snug hammock. A second warbling vireo's nest was revealed when the singing male flew from behind a bunch of leaves of the madrone tree, and the female flew in to take his place.

A male western bluebird was seen on the telephone wire with food in his bill and traced to his nest hole in an apple tree. He entered with food and soon emerged empty billed, taking off immediately on another foray.

Redwing blackbirds were seen busy about large patches of mustard growing high up on the bare hill. After carefully picking our way through the 5 foot high stalks we were finally rewarded by finding a nest on a stout mustard stalk about 18" above the ground. It contained three naked and very helpless birds and one unhatched egg. The hatching had probably occured not many hours before our discovery of it. We made our observations brief so that incubating egg and birdlings would not be injured by the cold.

Close-ups of Lawrence goldfinches, Lazuli buntings, northern phalaropes and western tanagers were enjoyed by all.

The following 68 species were seen:

Western grebe
Great blue heron
Mallard
Ruddy duck
Turkey vulture
Red-tailed hawk
Sparrow hawk
California quail
Sora rail
Florida Gallinule
Killdeer
Northern phalarope
Band-tailed pigeon
Mourning dove
Anna hummingbird
Allen hummingbird
Red-shafted flicker
California woodpecker
Downy woodpecker
Nuttall woodpecker
Ash-thr. flycatcher
Black phoebe
Say phoebe
Western flycatcher
Western wood pewee
Violet-green swallow
Barn swallow
Cliff swallow
Steller jay
Scrub jay (California)
Plain titmouse
Bush-tit
Wren-tit
House wren
Bewick wren
Mockingbird
Robin
Russet-bk. thrush
Western bluebird
Western gnatcatcher
Hutton vireo
Warbling vireo
Lutescent warbler
Yellow warbler
Tolmie warbler
Long-tailed chat
Pileolated warbler
English sparrow
Meadowlark
Red-wing blackbird
Bicolored blackbird
Brewer blackbird
Cowbird
Western Tanager
Black-hd. grosbeak
Lazuli bunting
Cal. purple finch
House finch
Common goldfinch
Green-bk. goldfinch
Lawrence goldfinch
Spotted towhee
Brown towhee
Lark sparrow
Oregon junco
Chipping sparrow
White-cr. sparrow
Song sparrow

C. L. Carson, Leader and Historian.

Special NAPA COUNTY Trip

In Sunday, May 7, about 30 members and guests, including a few members of the newly formed Sacramento Audubon Society, drove to Napa and out along the Silverado Trail. Stops were made in Napa and at Conn Lake, where the Common Loon, Anthony Green Herons, Lawrence Goldfinches, Slender-billed Nuthatches and a Cassin Vireo were seen.

Stops later showed us an Ash-throated Flycatcher, Nuttall Woodpecker, House Wren, Lark Sparrows and Lazuli Buntings. At Napa, where birding was excellent, we saw Cowbirds, Bullock Orioles, Chipping Sparrows and had a good look at a Long-tailed Chat. The weather was warm and all had a fine day.

A total of sixty-one species were identified.

Ken Schulz, Leader and Historian.

OBSERVATIONS

Edited by Mrs. Enid Austin

Hermit thrush, May 6, Redwood Park; Common loon. May 11, Lake Merritt; 2 mallard's nests on 2nd story balcony of boat house near feeding station, Paul Covell.

Old-squaw, April 17, Moss Landing, Monterey county, Mrs. Enid Austin.

April LIVERMORE-ARROYO MOCHO Trip

Sunday the 23rd was a clear, sunny day with slight wind—a good birding day. Twenty members and guests attended. They were not disappointed The prize bird of this area—the Phainopepla—was there.

The following 40 species were identified: (S—summer visitant)
Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-railed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Killdeer, Anna Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Western Kingbird (S), Cassin Kingbird (S), Ash-throated Flycatcher (S), Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay (California), Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Wren-tit, House Wren (S), Mockingbird, Robin, Western Bluebird, Phainopepla (S), California Shrike, Warbling Vireo (S), Yellow Warbler (S), Pileolated Warbler (S), English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bullock Oriole (S), Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Common Goldfinch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Lawrence Goldfinch (S), Brown Towhee, Nuttall Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Frank A. Scott, Leader and Historian.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST. "Bird Language". Wyman Richardson, M.D. **Atlantic Monthly**, May 1950. "Search for the Scarler Ibis in Venezuela." Paul A. Vahl, **National Geographic**, May 1950. "Some Interesting Visitors." Ross & Florence Thornburg, with beautiful color plates, **Arizona Highways**, March 1950.

Ethel M. Matheson.

"The Return of the Avocet" an article from the Sunday edition of **The London Times** of January 9, 1950, tells at length of the nesting, after a lapse of over 100 years, of a few pairs in East Anglia, since 1947. "By the end of June 1949 it was an astonishing sight . . . . to see 50 or 60 birds feeding together on about as many acres of land". The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has purchased Havergate Island where "steps are being taken . . . . to control both the salinity and the depth of the water." This event is the basis of the book "The Awl Birds" by J. K. Stanford.

LECTURE Friday, June 16th at 8 p.m. Tilden Nature Area, Tilden Reginal Park. This is the fourth of a series on Natural History. **"Life of the Forests,"** by Professor Emanuel Fritz. The public is cordially invited.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Mrs. Albert T. Long, Miss Anna Shumway; from Oakland, Miss Hazel Berg, Mr. Paul Covell, Mrs. Tay A. Ericson, Mrs. Paula Landgren, Mrs. Gertrude McKenna; from Piedmont, Mrs. Adolph M. Blum; from Berkeley, Mrs. Warren Cavanagh, Mrs. Bean Palmer; from Albany, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie H. Burman; from Alameda, Miss Lillian M. Stockwell; from Orinda, Mrs. Greorge Neldam; from San Rafael, Mr. John N. Stokely.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY with addresses and telephone numbers is available. Secure it at the next meeting or send 25 cents to Mrs. Arthur H. Myer, 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5. Enclose 2 cent stamp for postage. Get acquainted with your associates, they may be your neighbors.

SPECIAL JUNE PICNIC MEETING

The 393rd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on June 8th at the Museum in the Tilden Nature Area in the Berkeley hills, at 8 p.m. Special project to be discussed. Your presence is needed.

Assemble at 7 p.m. with your picnic supper at the camp fireplaces and tables just outside the south boundary of the Nature Area.

Drive north on Spruce St., just beyond reservoir turn left downhill into Tilden Park. At bottom of hill again turn left 200 yds. to picnic area. Public transportation to reservoir on number 67 bus line.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Jack Parker, resident Park Naturalist will tell us something of this wildlife sanctuary so near our metropolitan center. Guests are welcomed.

— Harry C. Adamson, Program Chairman.

JUNE FIELD TRIP

On Sunday, June 11, to Point Reyes, Marin Co., to see the breeding colony of murres. Birding probably also at other areas such as Shell Beach and Olema Marsh. From San Francisco 7:40 bus to Point Reyes Station. Meet at the hotel there at 9:30. Bring lunch, binoculars, and interested friends.

JUNE SATURDAY FIELD TRIP

On Saturday, June 24, to Redwood Regional Park, Oakland. From San Francisco take 8:00 "N" bus to 35th Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. Meet here at 8:45 a.m., and proceed in private cars east on 35th Ave. and Redwood Road to Orchard Camp in Redwood Canyon. Birding in the morning up Redwood Canyon, and after lunch in the Redwood Peak area. Bring lunch, binoculars and interested friends.

— A. Laurence Curl, Chairman
Field Trips Committee.

IN MEMORIAM. Mr. I. Newton Rosekrans, a member since 1948.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

formerly

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.